

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 27 are pending in this application. Claims 2 and 11 are hereby canceled, and new claims 28 through 30 are hereby added. Accordingly, claims 1, 3 through 10, and 12 through 30 remain. Also, claims 1, 3 through 6, 10, 12, 13, 18, 20, 22, and 23 are hereby amended.

Claims 1 through 3, 5 through 12, 14 through 24, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,959,543 to LaPorta, et al. ("LaPorta, et al. patent"), U.S. Patent No. 5,252,979 to Nysen ("Nysen patent"), and U.S. Patent No. 5,459,458 to Richardson, et al. ("Richardson, et al. patent"). Also, claims 4, 13 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the LaPorta, et al. patent, the Nysen patent, and the Richardson, et al. patent and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,479,408 to Will ("Will patent").

Claim 1 as amended provides a user output device for outputting concurrently information regarding a plurality of members. Similarly, claim 10 as amended provides outputting concurrently information regarding a plurality of members to a user output device. Also, claim 20 as amended provides an output associated with a display member for outputting concurrently accessed information regarding a plurality of source members. As shown in FIG. 9, the output device provides information for a plurality of members concurrently. Support for the above recitation is provided at FIG. 9 and page 7, lines 31 through 33, of the specification.

None of the cited references describe or suggest a device, method or system that outputs information for a plurality of members concurrently, as required by amended claims 1, 10, and 20. Therefore, amended claims 1, 10 and 20 distinguish patentably from the LaPorta, et al.

patent, the Nysen patent, the Richardson, et al. patent, the Will patent and any combination of these patents.

Claims 2 through 9, 11 through 19, and 20 through 27 depend from and include all of the limitations of independent claims 1, 10 and 20 as amended. Therefore, claims 2 through 9, 11 through 19, and 20 through 27 distinguish patentably from the LaPorta, et al. patent, the Nysen patent, the Richardson, et al. patent, the Will patent and any combination of these patents for the reasons stated above for amended claims 1, 10 and 20.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 through 27 are respectfully requested.

New claims 28 through 30 are presented to more clearly cover Applicants' device, method and system. In particular, new claim 28 provides that the user output device outputs concurrently the information regarding the plurality of members in order of proximity to the announcing device. Also, claim 29 provides that outputting concurrently the information includes outputting concurrently the information in order of proximity to the announcing member. Likewise, claim 30 provides that the output associated with the display member outputs concurrently the accessed information regarding the plurality of members in order of proximity to the display member. Support for the above recitation is provided at page 7, lines 20 through 22, of the specification. None of the cited references describe or suggest a device, method or system that outputs information for a plurality of members concurrently in order of proximity to the announcing device, announcing member, or display member, as required by new claims 28 through 30. Therefore, allowance of new claims 28 through 30 is believed warranted.

CONCLUSION


No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. Also, no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicants have argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The first page of the attached page(s) is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**".

It is submitted that the claims clearly define the invention, are supported by the specification and drawings, and are in a condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns that may expedite prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 2 and 11 are canceled. Claims 1, 3 through 6, 10, 12, 13, 18, 20, 22, and 23 are amended, and new claims 28 through 30 are added as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A context-sensitive data announcing device comprising
an ad hoc network interface configured to receive [one or more] a plurality of
announcements identifying [one or more] a plurality of members of an ad hoc network;
a database comprising information regarding [one or more] each of the plurality of
members;
a processor configured to extract the information regarding the [one or more] plurality of
members from the database using the identifying plurality of announcements [announcement] ;
and
a user output device for outputting concurrently the information regarding the [one or
more] plurality of members.
3. (Twice Amended) The device of claim 1 [2] wherein [the queue couples the information
regarding the one or more members to] the user output device outputs concurrently the
information regarding the plurality of members in the order the announcements were received.

4. (Twice Amended) The device of claim 1 [2] wherein
the information regarding an urgent member comprises an urgent designation; and
[the queue is configured to couple the information regarding the urgent member to] the
user output device outputs concurrently the information regarding the urgent member before [the]
information regarding at least some of the [one or more] other members of the plurality of
members.
5. (Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein the processor is configured to extract the
information regarding the [one or more] plurality of members that are proximate to the device.
6. (Amended) The device of claim 5 wherein the processor is configured to determine the
proximity of the [one or more] plurality of members using a signal strength provided by the
network interface.

10. (Twice Amended) A method for an announcing member of an ad hoc network to announce the presence of one or more members of the ad hoc network, the method comprising receiving an identifying announcement from [one or more] a plurality of members of the ad hoc network;

accessing a database using the [one or more] plurality of identifying announcements to retrieve information regarding each of the [one or more] plurality of members of the ad hoc network from which an announcement was received; and

outputting concurrently the information regarding the plurality of members to a user output device.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein [queuing comprises queuing the identifying announcements] outputting concurrently the information includes outputting concurrently the information in the order received.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein [queuing comprises] outputting concurrently the information includes raising an urgent identifying announcement to output above information regarding at least one other member of the plurality of members [a top of the queue].

18. (Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein building the database comprises extracting new information from the [one or more] plurality of identifying announcements; and storing the new information in the database.

20. (Twice Amended) A system for identifying members of an ad hoc network, the system comprising

communicators, associated with [one or more] a plurality of source members and a display member, for communicating announcements regarding the source members between the source members and the display member;

a database comprising information regarding the source members;

a processor configured to access the database using the announcements to produce accessed information; and

an output associated with the display member for outputting concurrently the accessed information regarding the plurality of source members.

22. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 21 wherein

an announcement passes through [zero or more] at least one communicators as it travels from the source members to the display member; and

the processor is configured to determine the proximity of a source member to the display member based on the number of communicators the announcement passed through between the source member and the display member.

23. (Amended) The system of claim 21 further comprising

[one or more] a plurality of signals for carrying the announcements between the source members and the display member;

a signal strength measurer associated with the display member, the signal strength measurer producing a signal strength for each signal received from a source member; and wherein

the processor is configured to determine the proximity of the source members to the display member using the respective signal strengths.

28. (New) The device of claim 1 wherein the user output device outputs concurrently the information regarding the plurality of members in order of proximity to the announcing device.

29. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein outputting concurrently the information includes outputting concurrently the information in order of proximity to the announcing member.

30. (New) The system of claim 20 wherein the output associated with the display member outputs concurrently the accessed information regarding the plurality of members in order of proximity to the display member.